

REMARKS

Prior to entry of the present Amendment Claims 1-28 are pending. Claims 29-31 were previously canceled. By the present Amendment, Claims 11-28 are canceled without prejudice, thereby leaving Claims 1-10 unchanged.

The Examiner has identified the following four groups and corresponding claims in the application:

- (1) Group I, Claims 11-17 and 18-21, drawn to a blind trimming device having an elastic member for biasing a cutting blade and a cutting tool into a shearing engagement, classified in class 83, subclass 582;
- (2) Group II, Claims 1-10, drawn to a blind trimming device with different types of cutting blades and cutting tools, classified in class 83, subclass 633;
- (3) Group III, Claims 22-24, drawn to a blind trimming device having a cutting tool and a cutting blade, each having a different hardness number, classified in class 83, subclass 613; and
- (4) Group IV, Claims 25-28, drawn to a blind trimming device having an insert for supporting blinds, classified in class 83, subclass 467.1.

The Examiner has required Applicant to elect a single group for prosecution on the merits. Applicant elects, without traverse, Group II, Claims 1-10 for prosecution.

Applicant has amended the application to delete the non-elected groups. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the non-elected groups in one or more divisional patent applications.

The Examiner contends that the application includes claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

- (1) Species A, Figs. 1-6, a cutting tool having a locating protrusion and a cutting blade having a locating recess; and
- (2) Species B, Figs. 7-9, a cutting tool having a locating recess and a cutting blade having a locating protrusion.

The Examiner has required Applicant to elect a single species for prosecution on the merits. Applicant elects, without traverse, Species A, Figs. 1-6 for prosecution. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 1 and 18 are generic.

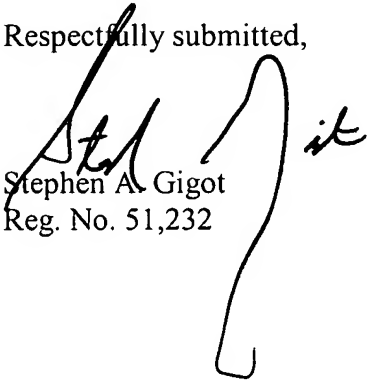
Applicant reserves the right to later list claims that are readable on the elected species that are subsequently added or were originally filed. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the non-elected species in one or more divisional patent applications if the restriction requirement is upheld.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, entry of the present Amendment and examination of the elected Group II, Claims 1-10, on the merits are respectfully requested.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,


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